

death sentence. HIV had been identified 2 years earlier, but effective treatment was still not available. Many of us watched helplessly as friends and loved ones passed away.

AFC was founded by friends of mine, Dr. Renslow Sherer, Dr. Ron Sable, Judy Carter, and William Young. Its mission: to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS and improve the lives of people affected by the epidemic.

Thanks to AFC's role as a force for change, lives have been saved and lives have been changed. AFC helped turned the tide of this epidemic in Illinois and across the country by working with community organizations to develop and improve HIV/AIDS services, funding and coordinating prevention, care, and advocacy, and acting as a champion for effective, compassionate HIV/AIDS policy.

In its position as the hub of HIV/AIDS services in Chicago, AFC has worked with its partner agencies to connect people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS with the care, housing, and prevention services that keep HIV infection from being the death sentence it once was.

Through its advocacy efforts, AFC has given a voice to those who would otherwise go unheard, empowering those living with the disease to be their own advocates, holding those of us in power accountable, and keeping the human face of the epidemic fresh in our eyes and close to our hearts.

Many of the life-saving programs established by this body have been implemented on the ground by AFC and its community partners. Again and again, AFC has proven itself to be a dedicated steward of public and private resources. Its innovative approaches to coordinating HIV/AIDS prevention and care services such as case management and support of housing programs have been repeatedly recognized as national models.

From the west side of Chicago to West Africa, AFC has partnered with community organizations to support vital prevention, education, and care programs that would otherwise go unfunded. These activities reflect the true scope of the HIV/AIDS epidemic running the gamut from the local and State level to the national and international stage.

Because of the richness of these links, AFC is uniquely positioned to build coalitions and grassroots advocacy networks to effect change. Its leadership in countless campaigns for more and better HIV/AIDS prevention, care and housing services has empowered those communities impacted by the epidemic to directly engage their elected officials and demand the life-saving services that they need.

As a Member of Congress, I rely on AFC to provide me with policy advice and, as important, to describe the on-the-ground needs and concerns that must be addressed.

And so I would like to congratulate AFC President and CEO Mark Ishaug,

Board Chair Aaron Baker, and their staff and volunteers for their leadership and dedication in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Thanks to your hard work over the last 25 years, we now know that this is a fight in which one day we will be victorious.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHY A "NO" VOTE IS THE RIGHT VOTE ON SANCTIONS FOR IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Today, the motion to instruct on the comprehensive Iranian sanction bill was passed overwhelmingly, 400-11. Eleven individuals said that this was not a good idea. I was one of those 11, and I would like to explain why I think the sanction bill against the Iranians is very, very dangerous and not well thought out.

Sanctions are very serious. Sanctions are literally an act of war. When you prevent certain goods and services going into a country, it's like a blockade. There is no advantage to us to do this. The sanction bill literally says that any country that trades or sends oil into Iran, we will no longer trade with them. So if Russia sends in oil or gasoline or refined products or China does, we are theoretically, under this bill, not to trade with them. Can you think of anything more chaotic than having a trade war with China at this particular time?

So often well-intentioned foreign policy procedures backfire. They have unintended consequences and there is too often blowback. Today, unbelievably, we are engaged in so many places in the world and we can't afford it. Our foreign policy costs us a trillion dollars a year to operate. We're in 135 countries. We have over 700 bases throughout the world. We are engaged in military confrontation in Iraq, Afghanistan, in Pakistan. We're bombing in Yemen, as well as having surrogates fighting in Somalia.

We're flat-out broke. The policy is driving our enemies into the hands of the Chinese, and here we are looking for another war. It makes no sense whatsoever.

The conversation today was nothing more than war propaganda on why we have to get ready to bomb the Iranians. There is no proof, according to our CIA, that they're actually working on a nuclear weapon. I'm sure they would like to. Why not. Everybody around them has it so it would be logical that if they're surrounded and threatened and intimidated with all of the people around them, why wouldn't they want

one? Well, of course they do. But others have it.

They have never been found in violation of the nonproliferation treaty. Never. And yet Pakistan, India, and Israel, they don't even belong, and they're our friends and we give them money. Pakistan, they have gotten support from us. They have nuclear weapons and they have been known to send nuclear technology to North Korea.

So the whole process makes so little sense.

The language today was used that, well, we have to go in because of the weapons of mass destruction, they're going to have missiles and they're going to attack us. It's identical to the propaganda promoting in 2002 and 2001 before we attacked Iraq. So this same process is occurring trying to generate all of this excitement about the need to use hostilities.

Now, a lot of individuals vote for sanctions that are basically anti-war and they don't like the military option, and they think this is an alternative. I think that is deeply flawed thinking, because sanctions lead to hostilities. And if you commit to the sanctions, you're really committing to the next step. The sanctions of the 1990s and the year 2000, the sanctions on Iraq, eventually led to the hostilities and the war and the invasion.

So what did that invasion of Iraq do? Did we find any al Qaeda there? No. We found out that Saddam Hussein wouldn't allow the al Qaeda there. No weapons of mass destruction. We've turned the country upside down. Hundreds of thousands of people injured and killed. We have suffered devastating problems from this. And what has happened? We turned the Government of Iraq over to the Shiites, who are allies of the Iranians. So that whole policy has actually backfired.

So now what we're doing to the Iranians is driving them into the pockets of the Chinese. The Chinese are pretty good capitalists these days. They work hard, they produce, they sell us certain goods and services. We pay them, they save their money, and they're starting to invest. So they're investing around the world in natural resources. And what are we doing? All we're doing is trying to take over the world with natural resources so we have control of oil.

This is a mercantilistic idea, it's ancient, and it takes you back to almost colonial times.

□ 1400

So this, I think, shows that our policies are deeply flawed. I sure would have wished this vote would have come out differently. And I warn, this was a very dangerous vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DRIEHAUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) is recognized for 5 minutes.